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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sau-Gee Chen and Chieh-Chih Li — Group Art Unit: 2306

Serial No.: 08/510,740

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Title: METHOD FOR FINDING QUOTIENT IN A DIGITAL SYSTEM

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COMMUNICATION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

While a significant debate and U.S. case law surrounding the eligibility for patent protection of inventions involving computers and mathematical algorithms has been developing over the last twenty years, the recent In re Alappat decision and the PTO Examination Guidelines for Computer-Implemented Inventions have helped focus the current thinking as to computer-implemented invention patentability under 35 U.S.C. §101.

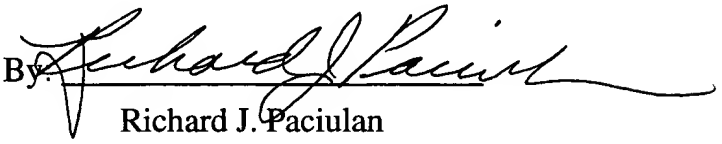
In In re Alappat, 31 U.S.P.Q. 2D 1545 (1994), the majority opinion objected to the PTO practice of examining mathematical algorithms by focusing solely on the mathematics in the claims. The majority opinion also stated that programming of a general purpose computer creates a new machine, because a general purpose computer in effect becomes a special purpose computer once it is programmed to perform particular functions pursuant to instructions from programmed software.

Similarly, the PTO's EXAMINATION GUIDELINES FOR COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED INVENTIONS state that "A series of specific operational steps to be performed on or with the aid of a computer is a statutory process" and that "A computer or other programmable apparatus whose actions are directed by a computer program or other form of 'software' is a statutory machine".

In this context, the Applicants submit that they have invented a new kind of computer which operates in a more efficient manner in the area of finding a quotient, utilizing novel and inventive steps for generating data representative of such a quotient.

Respectfully submitted,

LADAS & PARRY

By: 

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